

**TOWN OF BELFAST
MINUTES
REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2021**

Present: David Jennings, David DeRock, Josh Cole, Andrew Chamberlain, Michael Hillman, Tim Atherton, Kevin Margerum, Robert Kish, Patricia Oliver

Community present: Rick Smith, Mike Unfus

Supervisor Jennings called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Hillman moved to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2020 meeting and Councilman DeRock seconded. All in favor Carried

The Supervisor's Report, dated November 2020, was approved by a motion from Councilman DeRock and seconded by Councilman Chamberlain. All in favor Carried

The Town Clerk's Report, dated November, 2020 for the October accounts, was accepted by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman DeRock. All in favor Carried

Water Superintendent's report from Tim Atherton included the following:

- Continue disinfecting playground
- Checking chlorine and tank levels daily
- Shut off and plugged water line to 94 S. Main
- Christmas trees put up and lighted in park for ceremony
- Flushed deadends
- Street light in front of library that was struck by car has been replaced
- Dig Safe NY tickets up to date (32 total)
- Plowing and salting when needed
- Helped Highway Department clean Main St.
- All samples taken and are good

In addition, have not received a final answer regarding new quarterly water samples required by County at a cost of \$800 per sample X's 4. Could blend and take sample, but possibility tests would have to be redone separately and then will cost more money. Testing for teflon. Supervisor Jennings will contact regional person to see if Belfast water can be classified as a "back up" source, and will not have to be tested. There is also a leak in the air stripper that would need repair if the plant is running full time.

Highway Superintendent Kish presented fuel bids from Rinker (1.76 for diesel and 1.59 for gas) and Shorts (1.44 for diesel and 1.65 for gas). Councilman Chamberlain moved and Councilman Cole seconded to award the fuel bid to Shorts. All in favor Carried

Mr. Kish reported that the new excavator was back in service so they are back to ditching. No major snow storms so far this year, but lots of ice so they have been using lots of sand.

Mr. Kish was questioned why it took so long (from Thursday to Monday) to clean off Main Street after the snow fall last week. He stated that the State did not clean the Main Street like they usually did and he didn't feel the need to call his men in for overtime. They are still working 4 ten hour days, Monday through Thursday. He is thinking this will save money on overtime in the long run.

He has not spoken with Mr. Popp regarding the so called destruction of Mr. Popp's trees. The insurance company offered Mr. Popp a settlement, which Mr. Popp refused. Supervisor Jennings advised all board members to not converse directly with Mr. Popp, but to refer him to the insurance company if he should contact them.

Mr. Kish said his voice mail on his telephone is working now and messages can be left.

Kevin Margerum, Code Enforcement Officer, reported that he has been spending a lot of time on a property maintenance complaint on Lilly Road. Both parties have attorneys and no one is happy. Building permits have slowed down considerably. He has closed the alley behind the building on Rt. 19 and will plaquer with a "Public Safety" sign. He has not heard anything from the owners of the property behind the Children's Library and the sump pump issue, but will check into that. He will also check on South Main Street where there seems to be campers using a wood stove behind a house. This would be a fire safety issue.

Mr. Margerum was asked to check on the Leisure property on the corner of 305 and Rt. 19. There seems to be a collection of old cars being stored. Also, there is an issue with a residence on County Rd. 17. The Gary Cassady issue is at a standstill until the Courts open again in the spring, but everything seems to be in place to take Mr. Cassady to court.

The gas company just capped off the gas at 94 S. Main Street (Howe property), so it can now be burned by the fire department.

The MACE Code Enforcement agreement was approved by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman Cole. There were no changes in the agreement from last year. All in favor Carried

The camera system installed in the Belfast Town Library is up and running.

The Board was informed that Connie Livergood, Dog Control Officer, has resigned as of 12/31/20 and we have no replacement. The position has been advertised, but no takers. Pay is \$1700 per year, plus .50 mileage.

RG&E has begun replacing street lights with LED lights.

The end of year line transfers presented by Baldwin's Business Services were approved by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman Chamberlain. All in favor Carried

The 2021 list of Current Appointed and Elected Officers for 2021 was accepted as presented. A copy is attached to the minutes.

It was suggested that a job description for the youth director be established in case there is a position this summer.

Resolution #1-21, entitled **Changes to Local Law 1-2010, Section 6, License Fees**, was approved by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman Cole. Dog licenses would go up in price to \$10 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$20 for unspayed/unneutered. All licenses would be due by the last day of February each year. Each month the dog remains unlicensed, a \$5 fee would be added per month. All in favor Carried

Councilmen Cole and DeRock graciously volunteered to be auditors for the Justice books and will be in touch with Judge Young to make arrangements.

The list of wages for Belfast Town employees was reviewed. There was a change in the list for hourly and overtime salary for James Ace. It was suggested that in the next negotiated Highway contract, this be spelled out exactly as to why his hourly wage, because of past practice, does not meet with the established wage schedule.

A retainer agreement with Richardson and Pullen naming them Town Attorneys for 2021 was approved by a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman DeRock. All in favor Carried

The Board was informed of a letter received from Paul Curcio regarding a drainage ditch on Sherman Street that he deemed a “health hazard” and dangerous. The ACHD has been to that site in the past and there is no violation or concern. Mr. Kish said he has had his men clean out the ditch several times trying to make it look better.

Supervisor Jennings has received several communications from Russ Heslin, Assessor, regarding age tax exemptions for 2021. Because of COVID, no one over 65 has to reapply for STAR exemptions and they will remain as they were for 2020.

Supervisor Jennings informed the Board that there are Housing Community Renewal Grants available through NY State Community Development Block Grants if the Town is interested in pursuing something. Councilman Hillman suggested a generator might be something to look into.

The Board was asked to consider placing Tax Collector duties under the duties of the Town Clerk in 2022. Councilman Cole moved and Supervisor Jennings seconded to abolish the elected receiver of taxes and provide for an appointed receiver of taxes. All that is needed is a local resolution for this to happen. A resolution will be provided at the next board meeting.

The January 18th Board Meeting will be cancelled by a motion from Councilman Chamberlain and a second from Councilman Cole. All in favor Carried
Board members will come in on Friday the 15th to sign the bills and Mr. Atherton will run them over to Baldwins.

Lights should be removed from the trees in the park by the 8th and then trees will go through the shredder on Monday, 1/11. Wednesday, January 6th, is scheduled to remove the Christmas decorations from the light poles.

Bingo has been officially postponed until April 1st. No events will take place in the Town Hall (unless under special circumstances such as an inoculation site) until after April 1st.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. by a motion from Councilman Chamberlain and a second from Councilman Cole.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Oliver
Town Clerk